

Maureen H. - Guardian for Father

Maureen's father, who is seventy, is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His daughter was appointed as his guardian three years ago. At the time of the appointment, he was living in her home. During the day, he stayed at an adult care facility.

The disease has progressed. He argues aggressively with everyone and is often physically angry. Recently he has been wandering away from the day care arrangement, and the facility has informed his daughter that she will have to make other arrangements for his daytime care. For now, she has arranged for a caregiver to stay with him at home while she and her family are gone during the day, but she sees that this arrangement will not work for long. Her father's deterioration is disrupting the entire household too much.

Maureen has placed her father's name on a waiting list at a long-term care facility. His remaining savings will cover the costs at the facility for a while at least. Her sister, who lives in Fairbanks, and her brother, who lives in New York, do not want to their father to live in a facility.

Maureen currently sees no other option since she can no longer handle his care at her home. She is willing to discuss the situation with her brother and sister, but she has told them that as guardian she has decided that a change is necessary and is planning for it.

Study Points

- As guardian, Maureen is responsible for the difficult decision about moving her father, despite her family's objections. She is keeping them informed but knows the change is necessary.
- Over time, the care of a ward will involve balancing many considerations – money, the needs of others, and safety.